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Message Text

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15
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 AID-20 OMB-01

/180 W
---------- 097082
R 031000Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8539
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBAHUY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 2630

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR XY XC CH NG
SUBJECT: NIGER FOREIGN POLICY SHIFTING LEFTWARD

REF: ABIDJAN 6063 (NOTAL) NIAMEY 2430 (NOTAL)

1. RECENT GON DECISION RECOGNISE PRC RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT FUTURE DIRECTION OF NIGER FOREIGN POLICY. WHILE STILL TOO EARLY TO DRAW DEFINITE CONCLUSIONS, WE BELIEVE THERE WILL BE SHIFT TO LEFT. REASONS FOR LEFTWARD MOVE ARE COMBINATION OF DESIRE BY NEW MILITARY GOVERNMENT DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM FORMER GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES, PRESSURES FROM NEIGHBORING STATES (WE BELIEVE ALGERIA IN FOREFRONT), AND EXPECTATIONS OF NET INCREASES IN AID. AS FOR COL. KOUNTHCE'S OWN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY, HE IS DETERMINED FORGE NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND
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CONFIDENCE IN ORDER LEAD NIGER OUT OF NEARLY TOTAL

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DEPENDENCE ON OUTSIDERS. HIS SPEECHES AND ACTIONS SHOW
NATIONALIST BENT TEMPERED WITH PRAGMATISM, AND INCREASINGLY,
A WILLINGNESS TO TRY NEW WAYS OF DOING THINGS. IN CONTEXT
OF NIGER'S FOREIGN RELATIONS THIS MEANS TO THE LEFT.

2. IN EFFORT TO GET BETTER FIX ON GON'S INTENTIONS,
WE HAVE DISCUSSED SUBJECT SEVERAL TIMES WITH OFFICIALS
OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ESPECIALLY DIRECTOR OF
CABINET SALIFOU. WE TOLD GON PLANNED NO FURTHER SURPRISES
QUOTE AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT UNQUOTE AND WOULD
CONTINUE TRADITIONAL POLICY OF FULL SUPPORT IN UN FOR
THOSESTATES IT RECOGNISED (E.G. SOUTH VIETNAM, SOUTH
KOREA AND GRUNK).

3. NON-RESIDENT SOUTH VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR N'GUYEN
VAN LOC PRESENTED CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT KOUNTHCE JULY 31. THUS
WE TAKE THIS AS INDICATION GON PLANS NO RPT NO CHANGE IN
POLICY OF DIPLOMATIC BACKING OF RVN IN UN. CONCERNING
KOREA, DESPITE FREQUENT VISITS OF ROK AMBASSADOR, WE ARE
NOT SURE HOW LONG GON WILL CONTINUE TURN TOTALLY DEAF EAR
TO BLANDISHMENTS OF NORTH KOREANS - WHO ALSO MAKE PERIODIC
VISITS NIAMEY. IN KEEPING WITH CURRENT TRENDS, GON
SUPPORT FOR GRUNK IN UN MAY BECOME SOMEWHAT MORE VOCAL.

4. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN CHANGES IN NIGER'S FOREIGN POLICY
TOWARD AFRICAN STATES. RELATIONS HAVE BEEN RESTORED WITH
GUNIEA AFTER DECADE'S BREAK OVER GUINEAN SUPPORT TO NIGER
DISSIDENT MOVEMENT. RELATIONS WITH IVORY COAST WILL
PROBABLY REMAIN GOOD, BUT THE EXTREMELY CLOSE TIES
FOUNDED ON PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP OF TWO PRESIDENTS IS
THING OF PAST. COL. KOUNTCHE NOT LIKELY SEEK COUNSEL
OR ASSISTANCE FROM HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY IN MANNER OF DIORI.
ACCORDINGLY MODERATING, CONSERVATIVE INVLUENCE FROM
ABIDJAN WILL NO LONGER CARRY MUCH WEIGHT IN NIAMEY.

5. OUR CONCLUSION: MORE CHANGE LIKELY AND WITH A
LEFTWARD BIAS.
BUCHE

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